

The Echoes

Upper Columbia Academy, Spangle, Washington

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Rah! Rah! Rah!

"To your our dear old Alma Mater, we'll ever be true." Many of us, I'm sure, have felt those words long before we could adequately sing the song. But it takes more than a song or knowing when to say "Rah, Rah, Rah" to describe the UCA experience.

We gather at the beginning of the year with reluctance, excitement, and a hundred different thoughts and feelings. And now it's suddenly the end of the year, and with a new reluctance and a new excitement we gather our thoughts and our knowledge and our memories and prepare to go our own directions once again.

We came with goals, expectations, hopes, and a desire to learn and to really meet Jesus in our experiences here. In our science classes, we have seen the Creator of life more clearly. Our Bible teachers have helped us to understand God's love, and in each class we took, we learned something more about the world He created.

In the dorms we have felt His presence and seen His example. In prayer groups or in the people who struggle with their commitment, we have been challenged to search for Him. We have attended the worships, sung the songs, and listened to the talks. But for some it has been the excitement of those around us and the simple actions of our friends that have inspired our desire for Christ.

Through the sports, the music groups, the mission trips, the jobs and

turn to page 3



Dignitaries cut the ribbon for the grand opening of the new Campbell Administration Building on April 12

AIM: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and he shall direct thy paths. Proverbs 3:5,6

MOTTO: I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.

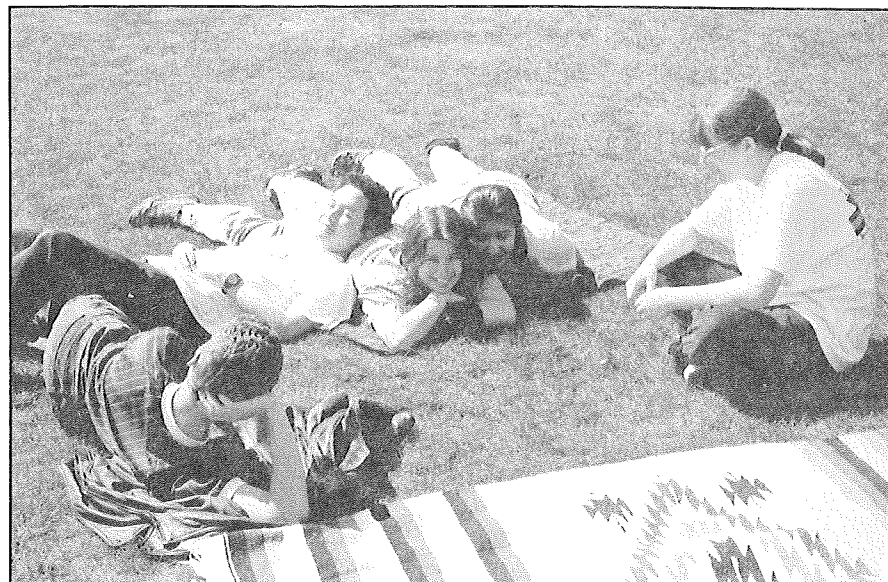
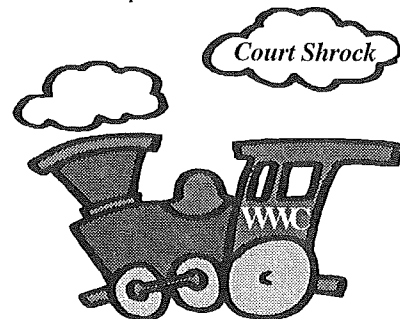
COLORS: Purple, black and silver

**Congratulations
Class of '97!**

Next stop WWC

For the seniors, college was a small, indistinct train far off in the distance. The senior year was going well. Everyone was enjoying being at the top at UCA. What hit me and many others like a ton of bricks was the eye-opening experience of Walla Walla College Days. All of a sudden that distant idea called college loomed immediately over our heads. Our future had seemed safe and secure, but that serene picture was disturbed by the intimidating realization of college. The call, "All aboard!" from Walla Walla frightened nearly everyone as we were suddenly forced to decide if we were getting on board or staying home.

Even though many seniors plan to go to Southern Adventist University, Walla Walla College provided the right atmosphere to broaden our minds with the idea of finally moving up the ladder with a big step into adulthood. The entire senior class got a tantalizing appetizer of the freedom and responsibility that college offers. Soon all the supports will be taken from us as we step into the unknown. One thing that we will take with us as we journey forth into life is the fond memory of UCA (you can stop yelling now, seniors) and all the friends we have made at such a wonderful school. There will never be another quite like the Class of '97.



Certain signs of spring: leaves come out on the trees, flowers bloom, and blankets appear on front campus

The choice is yours

... For the first time in our history the weird and the stupid and the coarse are becoming our cultural norm, even our cultural ideal" (*The Australian*, 13 June 1992). Why? Because of the majority of the choices we as a society have made.

Choices are power. They shape our future. Choices lead to our success or failure in becoming the type of person God desires.

There are several factors that can influence our values and choices, but eventually we have to make decisions on our own. Our background is one of these factors. As children, we are young and impressionable; therefore, our background forms our initial set of values. However, over time we mature and gain the knowledge needed to help us decide whether to build on or abandon our first values. We have to choose.

Society also has an intense influence on our choices. But society is made up of a wide variety of people that share diverse ideals, and there are few leaders and many followers. When a few loud leaders ripple society's surface, many

people will follow. Here is where a problem arises: not all of society's beliefs are right. So, of course, we can't follow all the beliefs of society, but we do have to be open-minded to ideas and then choose our own beliefs.

Finally, and most importantly, our values are also based on Jesus Christ. He is the source of all life and all true values. By establishing a relationship with Him, we become acquainted with these values and can obtain the power to practice them. But again, it comes down to our choice. We have to choose to follow Christ every day of our lives.

The values we form through our choices also determine our "success" and how we treat people. We *can* choose to be loving and accepting of others. We *can* choose to follow God's principles. We *can* choose to submit ourselves to God to lead the life He has planned for us. These choices are what lead to true success.

Choices are our last freedom. Remember that every choice we make today is an expression of who we are and will somehow influence our future.

Krista Wagner

Rah! Rah! Rah! from page one

everything we do here at UCA, we have learned how to live and how to reach for our goals. We came to learn, but it is not so much the knowledge that brings us here as it is what we begin to find out about God and about people. Some of us have found answers to our questions, but many of us search for answers to questions we never knew existed. But with the guidance we have received, we know where to look.

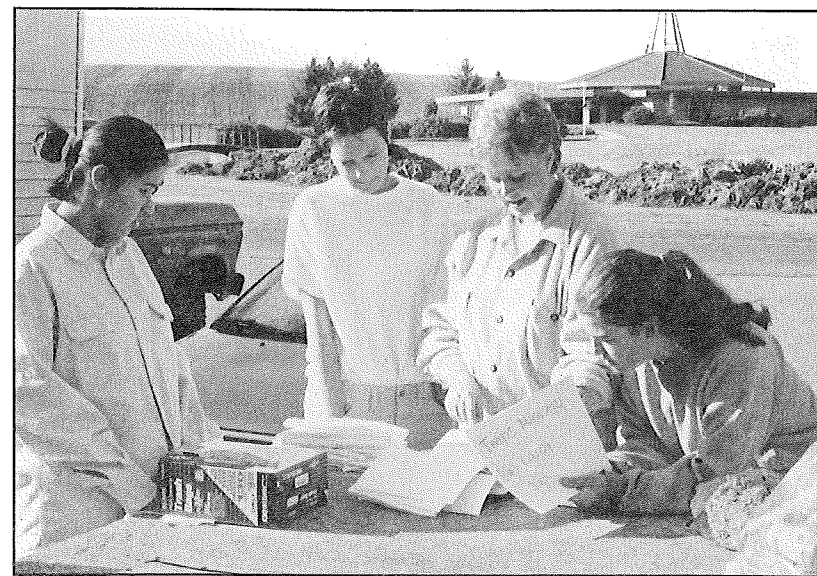
We have done the work and passed the tests. Now we are leaving with, perhaps, different goals and expectations, new hopes for the future, fears about where we may go, and a desire to learn more and to share the joy of our experiences here. We have spent agonizing weeks and seemingly endless months preparing, and now it seems to be ending more quickly than we can handle. The memories, the experience, and a little knowledge is all we'll really take with us when we make our final farewell.

If people were to ask me, "What is it that makes the UCA experience worth experiencing?" I doubt I could really tell them what it has meant. I could tell all about the school and the people and the classes, but to understand the

experience takes the nine months we have spent almost within touching distance of nearly everyone around us. It takes struggles to get off campus, the disappointment of tough tests and the excitement of hard work and success. It's the feeling of an afterflow, a friend who has given her heart to God, and a week of prayer that has really made you stop and think. You have to experience the late night talks, the hurting friends, the banquets, the cafe food, the class competition and the varsity and intramural games. It's the feeling of success and a feeling of loss at graduation. It's the knowing at flower bowl vespers that you may be making your final good-byes to some of the greatest friends you have ever had, to some great teachers, or to a much-loved ad building.

It's an experience that is made up of people and a love that you have shared. And it is special because we have had it together. But perhaps it can be best described by the words of those great song writers, "You'll fill our hearts wherever we go, and we'll be true to UCA!"

*Daniel James Perrin
President, Class of '97*



Ramona Hyslop, Raechel Stuart, Mrs. Torkelsen and Brooke Segebartt prepare on the morning of May 2 for the last HOPE Taskforce day of the year

New ad building opens

On April 12 during Alumni Weekend, the new ad building had its ceremonial grand opening. An assortment of students, contributors, administrators and other dignitaries cut the ribbon to open the building for the crowds to browse through. While people were looking around, Mr. Lange had some of the band play a variety of songs in the entry way. To answer questions, students, staff, and teachers were posted around the building in the areas where they will work.

It was a lot of fun seeing all the people there and knowing that we should be able to move in soon. At the time of the opening the building may have looked almost finished, but there was still a lot of detail work to be done. The next week the work resumed with the goal of moving in before the end of the school year.

Mark Keymer

The Echoes

is a regular student publication of Upper Columbia Academy, a non-profit Seventh-day Adventist boarding high school, Spangle, Washington

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and Stephen Lacey, adviser



Visitors spend day at UCA

I can remember when I was a mere eighth-grader and was totally dreading high-school. To have to leave home and live in a dorm really scared me. I could relate with the students that came here on Academy Day.

As I was working at Thunderbird that morning, I saw tour guides bringing the wide-eyed on-lookers through. They looked as if they did not know what they were doing and were happy to find security in following the group. I watched them as they walked by and wondered what kind of person each one was. One boy looked very mischievous. If he comes, I thought, the staff will have their hands full. One girl appeared rather shy and withdrawn, but I knew she would find friends here at Upper Columbia Academy.

There were various departmental

competitions during the tours that the visitors could enter. At Thunderbird, there was a pallet of panels, and people had to guess how much money the panels would sell for. Different teachers had questions based on their subject areas, and in the dorm they had to guess how much money was used for laundry.

At the end of the day, we all got together in the gymnasium where prizes were given, the band performed, the choir and Choraliers sang, the gymnastics team defied gravity, and various faculty talked about all the activities that go on during the school year. This all gave our visitors a really good impression of what life is like at UCA, and the overall attitude was very positive.

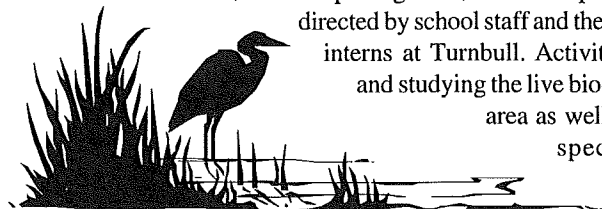
Chelyn Oster



Current and former members of Choraliers get together to sing during Alumni Weekend

Biologists visit Turnbull

The Biology classes went on their annual afternoon field trip to Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge on May 8. Armed with repellent, nets, binoculars, and tick-spotting radar, the classes participated in activities directed by school staff and the university biological interns at Turnbull. Activities included birding and studying the live bio-diversity of the local area as well as a host of stuffed specimens in the classroom.



Choraliers reach out, sing

Twenty-four people. One bus. Three concerts in less than twenty-four hours. Hundreds of lives touched—mine included. Choraliers tour.

When Choraliers go on tour it is the first time for some of us to really have the opportunity to get to know each other and—scary thought—our director. On tour we spend at least twice as much time on the bus as we do singing in concert. It's a good idea to bring a good book along. Better yet, bring two! On the last tour a couple of people brought guitars to play along the way. The bus never went more than fifteen minutes without someone playing a guitar or singing a song.

Once we got to Grandview, where we were having our first concert, we found that the ladies of the church had prepared a feast for us. Then, after the concert, we split into pairs to stay the night at some church members' houses. Cody Stevens and I went with a lady who was 69 years old. It was great! When we got to her house, she made us hot chocolate and got out some doughnuts with jelly filling.

Unfortunately, we had to leave the doughnuts behind when we left for Pasco the next morning. We sang for the church service in Pasco and then had an afternoon concert in Moses Lake. After the concert we went to the Masters' house to eat and laugh at the video they had made of us.

I'd like to thank Ms. Swigart and the whole music department for the music and the opportunities to reach out and touch people's lives.

Ryan Holcomb

Juniors pull out all the stops for class of '97

Abandoning the usual cafeteria dress-up party, on May 8 the class of '98 took the seniors on a cruise for a not-so-traditional junior/senior party.

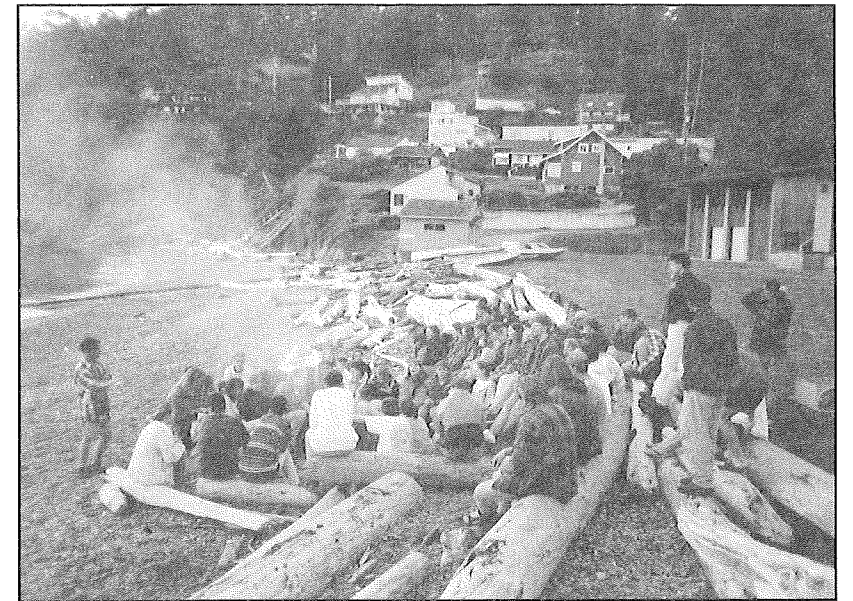
The activities started with a festive four-bus freeway ride to Lake Coeur d'Alene where the classes enjoyed an outdoor Hawaiian buffet. Luckily, the weather was the best it had been all year. After eating, everyone boarded the "Coeur d'Alene" for a 1½-hour evening cruise on the lake.

Entertainment during the cruise was provided by master illusionist and balloon man, Mr. Thayer; Abe Napoles, a Hawaiian musician; and a band consisting of Matt Steinbach, Rian Berry, Ori Carpenter, and Joel Dickerson.

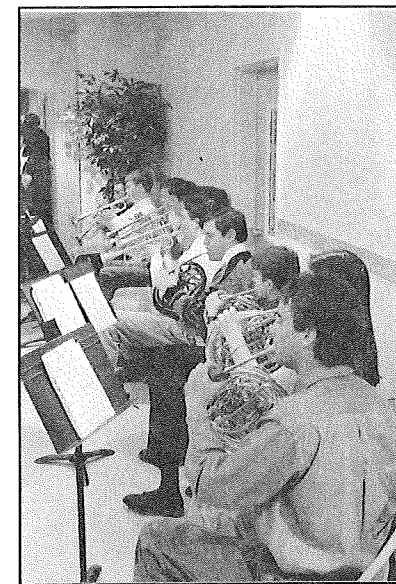
Bloomsday rally blesses

The Bloomsday Youth Rally weekend started off with a startling performance by Custer and Hoose of a play written about friendship. They play followed two small boys through their lives until they had reached the age of wisdom and memories. Throughout the play, a theme of God working in the lives of His children was interwoven. He helped them through difficulties and laughed with them in moments of joy. Many seemed to appreciate the values taught and the entertainment aspect as well, laughing to tears at the small jokes throughout the performance.

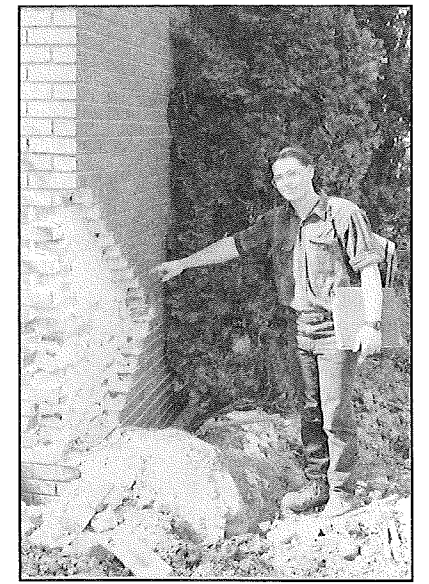
Sabbath began with a song service led by "Rejoice," four young women from Columbia Adventist Academy. They sang along with a guitar player, a bass player, and a pretty funky drum machine. Students were blessed by the music. Two more dramatic



Marine Biology students enjoy the sea breezes and idyllic coastal setting during their annual three-day field trip at the Rosario Beach field station run by Walla Walla College. It seems no-one was carried away by a large single-celled marine organism.



Band members play for the opening of the new ad building



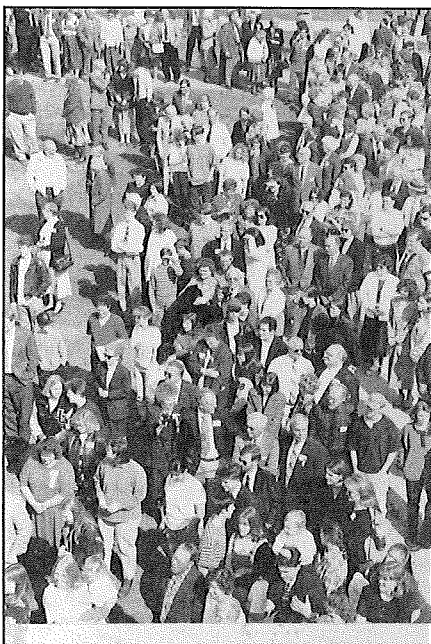
Andrew Sheidler points to the fast-disappearing northeast corner of the old ad building

**Registration
is
AUGUST 24**

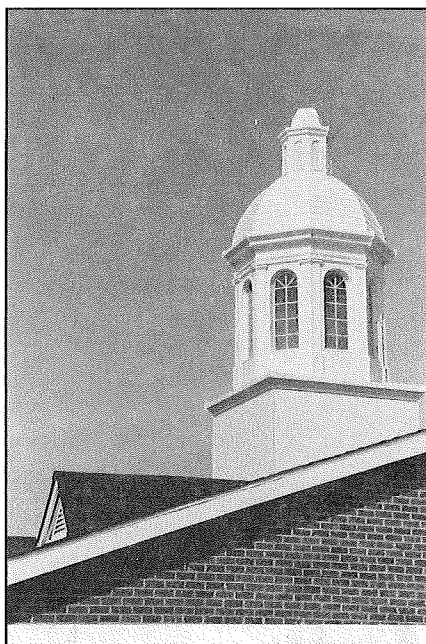
presentations and "Tale from the Streets," Cheri Peters' story of her experiences growing up in a rough world, ended the morning program.

After afternoon seminars, "Rejoice" gave a concert and Cheri Peters finished her story. The weekend appeared to be a blessing and a great success.

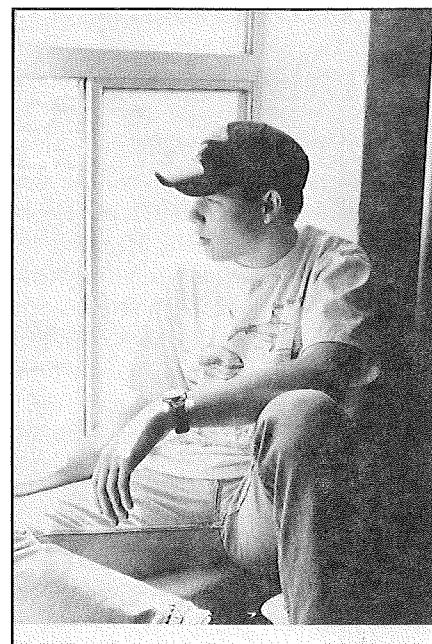
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Crowds wait to enter the new Campbell Administration Building during Alumni Weekend



The cupola waits . . .



Jeramy Torretta contemplates the future as he gazes out of the dorm lobby window

The Echoes
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SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!